

Finding Money for College: Seminar for High School Counselors

March 5, 2008 – Greenville

March 6, 2008 - Columbia

Finding Money For College

- General Eligibility – All Programs
- SC HOPE Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- SC Need-based Grant
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- Contact Information

General Eligibility – All Programs

General Eligibility Criteria Applies to All Programs

- Be a South Carolina resident;
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident (green card);
- Be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or independent institution;
- Certify that the he/she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol and/or drug-related misdemeanors within the past academic year (except Lottery Tuition Assistance); and

General Eligibility Criteria

Applies to All Programs

■ High School Grades

Students must have their GPA reported on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) to be eligible for State scholarships.

*SC Department of Education's UGP:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/hsr/UGP.htm>

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SC HOPE Scholarship

SC HOPE Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the UGP upon high school graduation
- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment
- Must not be a recipient of a LIFE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance

SC HOPE Scholarship

Awarding Process

- Full-time students attending an eligible four-year institution may receive up to \$2,800 (including a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost-of-attendance during the **first year only**. Half will be awarded in the fall semester and half in the spring semester.
- Students are eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for up to two terms.
- Students who receive the SC HOPE Scholarship and earn a 3.0 LIFE GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of the first year may receive the **LIFE Scholarship** for the second year of college.

LIFE Scholarship

LIFE Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment
- Must not be a recipient of the SC HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance during the academic year

LIFE Scholarship

Initial Eligibility Requirements for Students Attending Four-year Institutions

First-time full-time entering freshmen attending an eligible SC institution must meet two of the following three criteria to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship:

1. Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy;
2. Minimum 1100 SAT or 24 ACT; and
3. Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class (diploma eligible students only and based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy).

Initial Eligibility Requirements for Students Attending Two-year Institutions:

1. Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (the standardized test score and class rank requirements are waived).

LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Initial Eligibility Criteria

To receive a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a recipient of a LIFE Scholarship
- Be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major of science or mathematics (go to www.che.sc.gov for eligible programs)
- Be enrolled at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in SC
- Be in the second, third or fourth year of full-time enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment after high school graduation) in an eligible undergraduate degree program at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in South Carolina

LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Initial Eligibility Criteria (Continued)

Incoming 2007 Freshman Class & Thereafter

- Beginning with the Fall 2007 freshman class and thereafter, all students must have successfully completed at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six hours in mathematics and a minimum of six hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course by the end of the student's first year of enrollment in college (beginning the time the student entered college).

LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Fourteen Credit Hour Requirement

Students may use credit hours earned by the end of the first year of college enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment) in the following courses to meet the fourteen credit hour requirement for the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement:

- Exempted credit hours earned on a transcript at an eligible institution (only);
- Advanced Placement (AP) credit hours earned on a transcript for a grade of three or more on an AP exam at an eligible institution (only);
- International Baccalaureate (IB) courses;
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP) earned on a transcript of an eligible institution(only);
- Pass/Fail credit hours for courses with a grade of “Pass” (only);
- Credit hours earned in high school while in a dual enrollment program at an eligible institution;
- Credit hours earned in summer school at an eligible institution;
- Credit hours earned at in-state eligible institutions; and
- Credit hours earned at out-of-state eligible institutions.

LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Award Amounts

- Full-time students attending an eligible SC four-year institution (public and independent) may receive up to \$5,000 (which includes a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance each academic year.
- Full-time students attending an eligible SC two-year institution (public and independent) may receive up to the cost of tuition and fees plus a \$300 book allowance.

LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement Award Amounts

- The LIFE Scholarship may be awarded for a maximum of eight consecutive semesters (excluding summer school) at a four-year institution, up to four consecutive terms at a two-year institution for an associate's degree program and up to two consecutive terms for a one year diploma program (based on initial date of college enrollment). The LIFE Scholarship may be awarded for ten consecutive semesters if the student is in a CHE approved 5-year program.
- LIFE Scholarship Enhancement can be awarded up to \$2,500 for students attending eligible SC four-year institutions as a declared major in a math or science field. The LIFE Scholarship Enhancement can be awarded up to six consecutive terms at a four-year institution.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

For early awards, students must submit applications to the Commission on Higher Education by **December 14, 2008**. In order to be eligible to apply for early awards, students must meet one of the following criteria (students cannot use these criteria to meet the final awards criteria):

- Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 ACT) by the **November** test administration of the high school senior year, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year; Or
- Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) by the **November** test administration of the high school senior year and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the junior year, without regard to class rank.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

For final awards, students must submit applications to the Commission on Higher Education by **June 13, 2008**. In order to be eligible to apply for final awards, students must meet one of the following criteria:

- Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 ACT) by the **June** national test administration of the **senior year**, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the **senior year**, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the **sophomore, junior, or senior year**; or
- Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) by the **June** national test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the **junior or senior year**, without regard to class rank.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

■ Final Awards for Pending Students:

- Students must meet all other criteria (3.5 GPA at end of senior year and top 6% of graduating sophomore, junior or senior class or 4.0 GPA at end of the junior or senior year);
- Students and High School Counselors must submit an online application by the June 13, 2008 deadline.
- CHE Registration codes for June test administration:
 - SAT: 4313
 - ACT: 6326

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Information about the electronic application process is mailed to principals and counselors in October for the early awards and in March for final awards.
- Counselors are responsible for notifying all eligible students.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- Freshman students may receive up to \$6,700 during the first academic year toward the cost-of-attendance
- Sophomores, juniors and seniors may receive up to \$7,500 each academic year toward the cost-of-attendance

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

To receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Meet all of the eligibility requirements at the end of each academic year for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- Be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major in mathematics or science program (go to www.che.sc.gov for eligible programs)
- Be enrolled at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in SC
- Be in the second, third or fourth year of full-time enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment after high school graduation) in an eligible undergraduate degree program at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in South Carolina

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

Eligibility Requirements

- Beginning with the Fall 2007 freshman class, all students must have successfully completed a total of at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six hours in mathematics and a minimum of six hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course by the end of the student's first year of enrollment in college (based on initial date of college enrollment)

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

Award Amount

- Eligible Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement recipients can be awarded up to \$10,000, not to exceed the cost-of-attendance
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement can be awarded up to six consecutive terms at a four-year institution

SC Need-based Grant

SC Need-based Grant

Awarding Process

- Each academic year, must file the Free Application for Federal Student a FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st. Please be sure to check with the institution or the Tuition Grants Commission, if attending an independent institution, concerning their deadline
- Students must be needy based on the results of the FAFSA (consistent with Pell Grant eligibility)
- Students may receive up to \$2,500 annually if enrolled full-time and up to \$1,250 annually if enrolled part-time for a maximum of eight full-time equivalent terms (college's financial aid office determines the exact award amount)

SC Need-based Grant

Awarding Process (Continued)

- Students must be enrolled in their first one-year program, first associate's degree, first two-year program leading to a bachelor's degree, first bachelor's degree, or first professional degree

SC Need-based Grant

- The SC Tuition Grants Commission awards the SC Need-based Grant for the independent institutions. It is included as part of the Tuition Grant award.

Foster Care Youth

- Foster care youth are eligible for the maximum Need-based Grant award of \$2,500 per year; and
- Eligible for an additional award for up to \$2,000.
- Foster care youth may also be eligible for Chafee and ETV funds through DSS.
- Youth must self-identify.

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

Lottery Tuition Assistance

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must file the FAFSA or FAFSA Waiver each academic year (check institutional deadlines)
- Enroll in a minimum of six (6) credit hours each term as a degree-seeking student in a certificate, diploma or associate's degree program

Lottery Tuition Assistance

AWARDING PROCESS

- Must first apply federal grants and the SC Need-based Grant toward the cost-of-tuition
- For the Spring 2008 term, students may receive up to \$76 per credit hour if enrolled part-time and up to \$912 if enrolled full-time toward the cost-of-tuition
- The award amount is subject to change each term based on the number of eligible students and available funding

High School Early Graduation

Early Graduation

AWARDING PROCESS

- Must submit a completed updated version of the Early Graduation Application Form. Previous versions will NOT be accepted.
- Letter from the principal indicating student COMPLETED all requirements for high school graduation. Letter must be original, on school letterhead and signed by the principal only.
- Official transcripts must be sent directly from the high school to the SC Commission on Higher Education.

Early Graduation (continued)

- GPA must be based on the Uniform Grading Policy. Class rank does not apply.
- Grades must include all grades through the December/January deadline.
- SAT/ACT scores should be listed on the official transcript or a separate document (tape) must be attached to the official transcripts.
- Commission staff will not accept any documents that are Xeroxed or faxed.
- Students are responsible for ensuring submission is complete. Scholarship guidelines are posted on the Commission's website at www.che.sc.gov.

SC Commission on Higher Education

- Dr. Karen Woodfaulk - Director
803.737.2244 or kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov
- Dr. Tajuana Massie – LIFE Scholarship Co-Manager
803.737.2271 or tmassie@che.sc.gov
- Mr. Gerrick Hampton –Residency, S.C. Hope Scholarship & LIFE Scholarship Co-Manager
803.734.4397 or ghampton@che.sc.gov
- Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams – Need-based Grant & Lottery Tuition Assistance Coordinator
803.737.2262 or lmangwilliams@che.sc.gov
- Ms. Monette Foster – Palmetto Fellows Program Assistant
803.737.2286 or mfoster@che.sc.gov
- Mr. Franklin Davis – HEAP/GO Alliance, College Goal Sunday
803.737-9758 or fdavis@che.sc.gov

After Hours Higher Education Hotline:

Toll Free: 1- 877- 349-7183

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Website:

www.che.sc.gov